

TAHI MARCH 2006 NEWSLETTER

BOARD MEMBERS'S MESSAGE

TAHI CELEBRATES 4 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Stephen Pattenden

Telemetry Associates & Secretariat of TAHI

TAHI has been operating now for over four years. In this time it has worked with its membership and the UK Government to gain understanding of the drivers and the barriers to delivering services to the home and to home-based users. It has carried out research into the market and documented many services and their values to both the service provider and to the ultimate user. Particularly, TAHI has found that bundling services and aggregation of content helps the business case and when this is done there are many 'low level' services that incrementally add value to the business proposition.

To test the business models and practicality of service aggregation, TAHI members have taken part in DTI sponsored trials and have learnt valuable lessons about what works and what needs to be done for the future. One of the findings is that most of the technology is available but linking together disparate systems and services is by no means a simple proposition. TAHI has proposed that there should be a services related interoperable open architecture which links into all these systems and delivers a greater clarity of what the components of particular services do.

TAHI also has a remit of promoting this industry sector, to accelerate the adoption of smart homes, of telecare and wellbeing systems and of systems that preserve resources and save energy. TAHI members and its secretariat are active in representing TAHI and its aims in a number of forums such as the EU i2010 programme, the UK Department of Trade and Industry, European Standards through CENELEC and the Smart House Standards Steering Group, through attendance at bodies preparing for the EU Seventh Framework Programme such as NEM and NAVSHP. TAHI attends many Conferences and both makes the case for action in the sector and reports back from them in its monthly newsletter. This is now circulated widely to more than 1000 people in this sector and provides valuable information.

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BOARD MESSAGE Continued

TAHI is holding its fourth AGM on 22nd March 2006 at the DTI Conference Centre at 1 Victoria Street, London. This is the opportunity for TAHI members to hear reports of what happened in 2005, have their say on TAHI's activities for 2006, to help plan its future and find out what the Board are planning for 2006 and beyond. We believe that our planned future activities will be greatly appreciated.

In particular, in 2006 TAHI is promoting two forums as well as its annual conference and is setting up industry sector working groups whose aim is to grow the market in specific sectors where the business case or the national economic drivers are strongest. The industry sector groups are "Entertainment", "Telecare", "Wellbeing" and "Resource and Energy Management" and "Building, Construction, Regeneration and Installation". This last group is seen as essential in providing the infrastructure needed to deliver services from the other industry sectors into peoples' homes.

The first Forum - "Building Smart Homes and Communities....everyone profits" will be on 17th May and is aimed at senior people in the Building, Construction and Regeneration industry and all the organisations that support this sector. The Forum is being held in the BT Tower and is being sponsored by EDF Energy, BT and the DTI. ([Details Click Here](#)).

The second Forum will be held in Early September and will focus on the needs of the elderly (and disabled) in the area of Telecare and Wellbeing. It will be promoted in conjunction with the Department of Health and the DTI.

TAHI is dedicated to moving the market forward to the benefit of its members - being a member of TAHI was never more valuable.

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INDUSTRY SECTOR FORUM

“Building Smart Homes and Communities.... everyone profits”

TAHI's first **Industry Sector Forum** to convey the connected home message to senior decision makers in the building and regeneration sector takes place in the BT Tower on May 17.

Building Smart Homes and Communities.... everyone profits is a high-level event for builders, developers, architects, designers, property companies, government agencies, technology developers and providers, utilities, planners and housing providers.

It aims to explore ways in which these sectors can work together to the benefit of all, creating sustainable and inclusive communities where connected home technology helps deliver improvements to the environment and to public services like healthcare, education and welfare as well as transforming our work, leisure and everyday life. Importantly, it will seek to keep in focus that for commercial organisations profitable business needs to be achieved

More information is available on the new forum website <http://buildingsmarthomes.tahi1.com/index.html>

If you would like to attend, why not take advantage of the early-bird rate which runs until March 31. A limited number of sponsorship opportunities are available for those who wish to align their business with this prestige event.

Please contact Mike Windsor

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Tel: 01491 835049 or 07733 263423

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THE HOME AS A “COCOON” FOR PEOPLE

Stephen Pattenden - Secretariat of TAHI

As information and communication technologies (ICT) become ever more sophisticated and advanced, the range of beneficial services that can be delivered to the home will increase and as a result many of the activities that have hitherto been associated with travel and a physical presence away from home, such as shopping, entertainment, work, learning and health provision, will to an increasing extent become home-based.

Technology is developing that will transform the way we live and will go some way in resolving the issues of the future; such as the growing aged populations in developed countries and the mismatch between energy production and demand that will force up the cost of energy and travel. Because these trends are foreseeable (see the Foresight Scenarios that TAHI highlighted in its [February Newsletter](#)), we can plan now to ensure our homes are built, renovated or retrofitted, both now and in the near future, can adapt to the needs of the new services that ICT can deliver to the home. This is the theme of the forthcoming Forum in May.

The home has the potential to become a "cocoon" for people. In the home, systems can keep it secure, they can control the energy usage and save costs, they can look after us and our ageing relatives, they can help to keep watch over us using telecare to measure our life signs and ensure help is rapidly available, they can enable face to face communication with family, friends and neighbours as well as with carers and caring organisations, they can educate us and keep us active and learning throughout our lives, they can allow many of us to work from home and lastly they can provide all the entertainment we could possibly want and when we want it. However to achieve this, the infrastructure must be in place to communicate with the home and within it.

It is not just TAHI that is coming to this conclusion. The recent White Paper from the Department of Health ([Our Health, Our Care, Our Say](#)) concentrates on moving health services closer to the home. It is recognised that moving the point of care from large regional general hospitals to local facilities and indeed into the home is seen as the best place for the less acutely ill and the relatively capable elderly and

Continued ...

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COCOON Continued

disabled. Not only is this trend more convenient for the consumers of health services it is much less expensive. Indeed Tunstall, the manufacturers and providers of telecare products and services, estimate that enabling people to remain at home as they age costs only 1% of the cost of full time residential care. All of this should be a "no brainer"

The Department of Health is well aware of these statistics and it is actively encouraging the provision of homes that can support new health technologies, wellbeing services and telecare in their Housing Learning and Improvement Network ([Housing LIN](#)) delivering a whole range of services for improving home related care as well as the Extra Care Homes (ECH) programme that allows people to move into homes especially designed for the elderly.

Furthermore, there is much interest in developing ways to keep a caring eye on people as they get older in some of the research being carried out on how well people are and how this changes from time to time. BT for instance, at their Research Labs in Suffolk have been working with the social services department in Liverpool to test out a "Wellbeing index". This is designed to place a value on how well a person performs their daily routine and to draw inferences as they deviate from the routine in ways that are indicative of changes in their "well being" (or health).

This is done by making simple measurements of energy and water use, of occupancy of particular rooms and when particular appliances are used and is accomplished by using a low cost network of sensors. As and if the value of the "wellbeing index" changes, so the carer is informed of the change. The technique is especially useful for detecting slow change over long periods that tend to go unnoticed by people that visit an elderly person on a day-to-day basis. Obviously the information has to be handled with great sensitivity, has to have the permission of the subject and their relatives for its use, any data must be held very securely and handled for the most part in a way that anonymises the source of the data.

TAHI is planning to hold a Forum in early September covering this Industry Sector in conjunction with the DTI, DH (and ODPM) with the aim of helping the whole sector understand the benefits available to people and to those looking after them. TAHI is keen to ensure that both people active in this sector and the industry supplying it contribute to this forum. We want to bring together the people that plan the policies with those that implement it and to try and get real movement in this valuable market place.

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BUILDING INDUSTRY SECTOR GROUPS FOR COMMERCIALISATION

Neil Spence Jones - MD OpenHub Limited

TAHI's structure for facilitating the commercialisation of connected home technology is being reinforced.

At the AGM on March 22, there will be an update on progress made since the foundations were laid at the TAHI Conference last November.

Leaders have been established for the five key industry sector groups

- Entertainment and Communication - Steve Hall of BT plc
- Energy Management, Conservation and Green Issues - Ashley Pocock of EDF Energy
- Health and Telecare - Neil Spence-Jones of OpenHub Limited (pro temp)
- Social, Wellbeing, Community - Kim Spence-Jones of OpenHub Limited
- Building, Construction, Regeneration and Installation - Alan Kell of i&i Limited. This group spans all the others.

Objectives of the working groups are to source market analysis, identify product solutions, take part in Government consultations, identify funding opportunities and to provide a focus to a series of industry forums.

The first of these forums, Building Smart Homes and Communities everyone profits, is scheduled for May 17 at the BT Tower. The hope is that two more will be held this year, probably with one covering health and wellbeing.

Neil Spence Jones (Commercialisation Group leader) says: "These forums will provide a focal point to prompt discussion, foster the formation of commercial partnerships, allow members to exhibit and by arrangement with the organisers present as the Workgroup or as individual companies."

The industry sector groups will meet two to six times a year, with new members and government/regulatory bodies being encouraged to join.

For more information please contact [Neil Spence-Jones nsj@openhub.co.uk](mailto:nsj@openhub.co.uk).

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EXPLOITING THE BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY:

Lessons from South Korea and Japan

In December 2005, a DTI Global Watch Mission visited South Korea and Japan. The mission, led by Intellect, sought to understand how the investment that has taken place in advanced broadband networks (fixed and wireless) has stimulated innovation and growth in the markets for new media, content, applications and services, and to identify opportunities that could assist the UK broadband industry.

The mission's findings will be detailed at a free seminar, on March 29, 2006, at the Lewis Media Centre, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4RS. The event will include a series of presentations from the mission participants, a panel discussion, and the launch of the full written report. It will feed back some of the mission's key findings, with information on:

- The rise of community services and social networking
- The development of IPTV and mobile TV
- Emerging trends in consumer behaviour
- Deployment of next generation access infrastructure
- The accelerating pace of industry convergence
- Policy development and the pursuit of a competitive edge

Who should attend?

Fixed and wireless telecoms operators

- Broadcasters
- Content developers
- Content rights holders
- Consumer electronics companies
- Equipment manufacturers
- Policy makers and regulators

To reserve your place as soon as possible please contact:

Rebecca Straker on 020 7331 2037 or rebecca.straker@intellectuk.org

http://www.globalwatchservice.com/documents/Broadband_Flyer.pdf

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BUILDER DRIVERS IN THE US

Bourne Research

Customer demand is a driving force behind more homebuilders offering home automation products in their homes, according to a recent report which shows how smart homes are becoming more mainstream in the USA.

Innovations in MEMS (MicroElectroMechanical Systems), nanomaterials and other emerging technologies are making smart homes a reality for the masses, says Bourne Research. The market research firm reports that smart technology is increasingly being used to provide extra convenience to the consumer, with manufacturers of HVAC, lighting products and white goods among the first to integrate sensors at the system level in order to remotely monitor and adjust energy usage.

However, while ease-of-use and reduced energy costs are all reasons for consumers to embrace the smart home concept, novelty is likely to be the factor that captures their attention.

"As evidenced from residential communities in various stages of development all around the world, smart homes currently range from marginally intelligent to fully connected," said Marlene Bourne, Principal Analyst with Bourne Research. "Part of the reason for its slow acceptance to this point may be that 'smart home' implies a certain level of complexity and need for technical proficiency that most consumers aren't comfortable with. Consumer-friendly products and approaches are what will truly drive the growth of this segment, and both MEMS and nanomaterials are playing a key role here."

Bourne Research reports that the recent introduction of innovative front door security systems, handheld barcode scanners to monitor the inventory of groceries and household items, electronic textiles (via interactive quilts), and DIY (Do-It-Yourself) insulation and mold-prevention products that are applied just like paint, are the kind of novel, user-friendly items that will put smart homes in a context the average consumer will quickly embrace.

Even better, Bourne Research has found that many of these products can be easily integrated into existing home networks (or retrofit into homes without one) as wireless plug-and-play components, an ideal way of increasing a home's intelligence.

<http://www.bourneresearch.com>

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DTI AND TAHI MEET INTAP FROM JAPAN

Mike Windsor - MD of Digital Living Limited

TAHI Director for Marketing

In collaboration with the DTI, TAHI recently met with a delegation from INTAP ([Interoperability Technology Association for Information Processing](#)). INTAP were represented by Mr Shoji Tajima of NEC Corp., Mr Shiro Sakata, professor at the Graduate School of Science & Technology, Chiba University and Mr Katsuhiko Tomita of Panasonic Corp. Mr Yasuo Harada and Mr Lee Gould represented Panasonic Europe. Mr Karim Esmail from the Building Research Establishment was also invited. Stephen Pattenden, Dr Philip Moore of DeMontfort University and Mike Windsor attended on behalf of TAHI. Richard Foggie and Mark Carvell represented the DTI.

INTAP were established in 1985 with the purpose of promoting R & D, surveys and publicity activities for promoting interoperability of information processing technologies. Through this it seeks to promote and stimulate the progress of information processing and related technologies which should contribute to the formation of a healthy information society as well as to further progress Japanese industry and economy and internationalisation. INTAP members include Hitachi, NEC, Fujitsu, Toshiba, Oki, NEC and Panasonic amongst others. The mission of the group was to conduct research into ubiquitous network technology. In particular, to assess the take up of home networking technologies and to understand some of the drivers and obstacles to its greater use.

A presentation was given by INTAP and this is available to TAHI members by logging onto the TAHI web-site at <http://www.theapplicationhome.com>

The presentation covers the work being undertaken by INTAP members to define different models for connectivity in the home. The role of Wireless, Ethernet and Power-line communications was discussed and perhaps of particular note, the areas expected to be covered by zigbee and RF-ID solutions was quite prominent.

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DTI & TAHI MEET INTAP Continued...

TAHI presented its activities in recent years and Phil Moore presented the TAHI Open Architecture model as a potential solution to interoperability in the future. Great interest in the model was expressed by INTAP and it is hoped to be able to follow this up at the 'Interoperability Forum' being organised for later in 2006. INTAP were given a perspective on the growth of home networks and the problems being faced, including interoperability issues and the lack of skilled resource available. What is certainly clear is that Japan will continue to be one of the leading countries in providing and exploiting the Broadband pipe into the home.

As a result of the meeting it is hoped that INTAP and TAHI will establish a joint working relationship to share knowledge and ideas in the crucial area of Interoperability.

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INTEROPERABILITY

Mike Windsor et al.

The recent meeting with INTAP from Japan, reported in this Newsletter, was extremely timely from a TAHI perspective as the Directors and some members have been discussing in some depth the issues facing the industry. The results of the two trials have added useful and practical data to these issues and every day someone has a story of 'a failure to communicate' (what a fabulous line - I first heard it in 'Cool Hand Luke "What we have here Luke (Paul Newman) - is a failure to communicate". Those words, spoken by the Prison Chief Warden deep in the Louisiana or Mississippi swamp, led to some rather unpleasant experiences for Luke.) Recent experiences I have had, and indeed a number of others reported by friends and colleagues, may have been not quite so dramatic but they have been frustrating.

The issue of interoperability is very much at the heart of what TAHI members are seeking to address by raising awareness and by encouraging the development of integrated solutions. Much work has been done on the TAHI Open Architecture as one possible way for all devices to communicate with each other irrespective of whether they are wired or wireless, from company "x" or company "y" or working for service "a" or Service "b"

The TAHI Open Architecture work tackles this issue in ways that will allow any device, service network or system to work together in an interoperable whole. However, there is much work to be done encouraging compatibility/interworking with international standards.

The TAHI TWG Group needs to liaise with all the national and international groups active in this area such as INTAP, [Echonet](#), [DLNA](#), [HGI](#), [NGN@Home](#) and many others. [CABA](#) too has groups working in the area. It needs to have involvement with European Standards Organisations (ESOs) and in particular the [ICTSB/SHSSG*](#) which is responsible for standardisation of [SmartHouse](#) systems across Europe.

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“INTEROPERABILITY” Continued

Although a start can be made with simple bilateral interoperability, the ultimate aim has to be multilateral interoperability. This is what TAHI's Open Architecture seeks to achieve but in many dimensions.

Inevitably TOA needs to draw in TAHI members [Bristol University](#) for their work in ISO/IEC JTC1 [SC25 WG1](#) Standards where they are active members of the Interoperability task force. It needs to draw in the work of the [TEAHA](#) project where TAHI Members [Advantica](#) and [Openhub](#) are active and TAHI members [i&i Limited](#) and [Telemetry Associates](#) that are active in [CENELEC TC205](#) and its Working Groups. It needs to call on the expertise of TAHI members such as [Tridium](#) since they have good commercial solutions to more than part of the problem.

To ensure that the issue of interoperability is worked on and the TOA established as a unifying factor for Interoperability, TAHI has re-established the TAHI Technical Working Group headed by Stephen Pattenden under the aegis of the Commercialisation activities. The TWG will meet regularly from April (first meeting on 26th April). It is intended it will become a clearing house for Architecture and Interoperability issues by inviting involvement of many of the organisations listed above and lay down the requirements for Service and system interoperability into and in the Home. The results of this work will be distributed to TAHI members.

In addition, the issues of Interoperability and Open Architectures will form one of the themes of the TAHI Annual Conference in November.

If you or your company wishes to become involved in the TAHI work on Open Architectures and Interoperability then please contact:

Stephen Pattenden <stephen@tahi1.com>
Neil Spence-Jones <neil.spence-jones@openhub.co.uk>,
or Mike Windsor <mikew@digitalliving.ltd.uk>

* ICT Steering Board/SmartHouse Standards Sub Group that has as its members, the EU Commission, the three ESOs (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI), ANEC, AIE, NORMAPME and others concerned with the SmartHouse and its standards in Europe.

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MEDIA COVERAGE

Hi Fi Choice - April 1, 2006

The convergence buzz-word (dormant for a decade) was back at this year's CES show in Las Vegas, with Intel's Viiv platform, designed from first principles to act as a home entertainment nexus rather than using a PC shoe-horned into the task, as we have today. Factor in brands like Dell and HP producing big HDTV screens and DVD-spinning entertainment boxes, companies like Arcam making two-way connections between the Solo and the iPod and a brace of new, user-friendly and more affordable custom install and home automation systems. Suddenly, that distant dream of a fully interoperable, convergent home doesn't seem so distant.

Will PC or TV prevail in the living room – Financial Times, March 7, 2006

TV has traditionally been passive entertainment: something you sit back and enjoy, compared with a PC screen where you...

Full article: <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/ee710088-ad0b-11da-9643-0000779e2340.html>

Still time to take control at home - Financial Times, March 7, 2006

Increasingly the home will become underpinned by IT. So imagine trying to sell a house that malfunctions: whose doors unlock randomly because the domestic server is ridden with viruses. Today, taking an amateur approach to managing your home PC is acceptable as the associated risks are limited. A similar approach to your e-home will have far-reaching and possibly fatal consequences. The race is on to invade the home. Technology providers such as Apple and Microsoft want to wire up – even wireless up – your home.

Full article: <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/e20f1230-ad0b-11da-9643-0000779e2340.html>

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MEDIA COVERAGE Continued...

Am I smart enough for the 21st century? – Times, March 7, 2006

Columnist Richard Morrison takes a sideways look at the Smart Home Show at the NEC

Full article: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,1069-2072439,00.html>

EU plans research institute – Computing, March 2, 2006

European Union governments are to consider proposals to boost the region's research and development (R&D) activity by creating a rival to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The programme was first mooted last year as part of i2010, the restatement of the 2000 Lisbon Agenda to turn the European Union into the most competitive knowledge economy in the world.

Full report: <http://www.computing.co.uk/computing/news/2151171/eu-plans-r>

Open Source to Tear Down Digital Divides – Billboard, March 4, 2006

The open source software development community is increasingly turning its attention to digital music applications. Contrary to perceptions that open source further cracks the door open to piracy, today's efforts hold great potential to resolve one of the most challenging barriers to mass adoption of digital music: interoperability or lack thereof.

Open source advocates feel the nascent digital music market offers more fertile ground to mount a challenge than the well-established computer software industry. Rob Lord, CEO of open source developer Pioneers of the Inevitable, says "When you introduce interoperability, users are much more likely to go shopping in multiple places."

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MEDIA COVERAGE Continued...

A Unified Home - constructech.com, March 2006

There are a variety of home automation products on the market today from a broad range of providers. As a result, many construction firms are finding interoperability a huge problem when trying to communicate between these systems. The Intl. Standards Organization (ISO), www.iso.org, recently held its World Standard Cooperation at which experts from around the world discussed the topic of home connectivity.

The primary conclusion regarding this topic was international standards were needed to enable interoperability and security, bringing value and versatility to consumers, making it possible to include diverse products, services, and sources in one home. This, says the ISO, will accelerate market development.

Standards will benefit builders by allowing them to offer more options to homebuyers without concern that the selected products will not work together. This will also give homebuyers piece of mind that certain products they present to the builder will work with standard systems offered by the builder. Topics covered at the conference included in-home networking, content management, equipment management, and best practices. One of the conclusions of the conference was more forums should be held where ideas could be shared to improve coordination and avoid duplication of work.

Audiovisual - Home automation will boom, claims Unipalm. – Computer Reseller News, February 28, 2006

The home-automation market is set to reach the masses, specialist distributor Unipalm has claimed. John Turner, head of multimedia networking at Unipalm, said: "Home automation is an emerging market. The UK is probably 18 months behind the US in terms of adoption. It's all about IT and audiovisual (AV) integration and we are starting to educate resellers about it."

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MEDIA COVERAGE Continued...

Unipalm has just signed up home automation software vendor Con-vergeX. Jostein Svendsen, chief executive of ConvergeX, said: "Resellers that understand both IT and AV will do well in home automation, as will those with data networking skills."

Rob Bamforth, principal analyst at Quocirca, said: "Home automation has been around for a few years but things have happened to make it accessible to the average person, not just the mega-rich."

The horror of hi-tech - Sunday Times, February 26, 2006

Modern home gizmos, automation systems and wireless Lans? Kevin McCloud can't quite see the point.

Full article: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2098-2053596,00.html>

Home Automation – Micro Mart, February 9, 2006

Four-page feature on home automation, how to set it up and what it might cost.

TAHI's work to accelerate uptake of the connected home – Hidden Wires, February 6, 2006

<http://hiddenwires.co.uk/resourcesarticles2006/articles20060206-05.html>

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FUTURE EVENTS

TAHI AGM

March 22
DTI
1 Victoria Street, London

Electronic House Expo Spring 2006

March 28 April 1
Florida, USA
<http://www.ehxweb.com>

Med-e-Tel

April 5-7
Luxembourg
www.medetel.lu

Integrated Systems China

April 12-14
Shanghai
<http://www.is-china.com/>

Install @ Palme

April 23-25
Dubai
<http://www.install-online.com/>

Intelligent Building Summit 2006

April 25-26
Toronto
http://www.strategyinstitute.com/042506_intel_build/dsp_intel_build.php

Connections 2006

May 2-4
California
<http://www.parksassociates.com/events/conn2006/home.htm>

Building Smart Homes and Communities....everyone profits

TAHI FORUM
May 17
BT Tower, London
<http://buildingsmarthomes.tahi1.com/index.html>

INSTALL China

May 31 - June 3
China International Exhibition Hall
Beijing, China
<http://www.is-china.com/>

Cedia UK Expo

June 20-22
London
<http://www.cedia.co.uk>

e/home 2006

October 19-21
Berlin
<http://www.ehome-berlin.de>